

skulls of true *loftusi*, ranging from Karyatein (*Carruthers*) to Mohammorah (*Loftus*), before me, and three of the Muscat form, find that there are certain cranial differences between the two and would suggest that the latter should be distinguished as

Jaculus loftusi vocator, subsp. n.

External characters quite as in *loftusi*, but, the specimens being or having been in spirit, the exact tone of colour cannot be observed.

Skull of about the same size as in *loftusi*. Anteorbital foramina smaller, of more equal breadth above and below, not expanded above as in *loftusi*; greatest breadth across the two foramina in four specimens of *loftusi* 15·8, 16·2, 15·2, and 15·4, in three specimens of *vocator* 14·2, 14·0, and 14·0. Front edge of zygomatic plate outside the foramina more vertical, nearly at right angles (88°, 89°) to the line of the tooth-row, while in *loftusi* it slants back considerably (75°, 76°). Interparietal smaller, averaging about 4·5 × 5·4 as compared with 5·5 × 7·0 mm. Other characters apparently quite as usual.

Dimensions of type, measured on the spirit-specimen:—

Head and body 95 mm.; tail 164; hind foot 57; ear 21.

Skull: greatest median length 29·7; greatest diagonal length to back of bullæ 32; greatest breadth across face 22·4; interorbital breadth 12; bimeatal breadth 23·2; anteorbital foramen, height 5·4, breadth across the two foramina 14·2; upper molar series 4·8.

Hab. Coast region near Muscat; type from Sohar, others from Seeb.

Type. Adult male in spirit. B.M. no. O. 5. 22. 3. Presented by Dr. A. S. G. Jayakar.

Although the two co-types of *loftusi* (of which 55. 1. 6. 82 may now be formally selected as a lectotype) have the zygomatic plate broken away, enough remains to show that the anteorbital foramina are of quite the same shape as in our series from Karyatein.

XLIV.—A new Short-tailed Opossum from Brazil.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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Monodelphis theresa, sp. n.

Most nearly allied to *M. iheringi*.

Size about as in *iheringi*; fur similarly short and close, hairs of back about 4 mm. in length. Coloration on the

same general plan, but the ground-colour is dark grizzled grey, which, however, is only present on the anterior two-thirds of the body, the head and rump deep chestnut-rufous. Dorsal lines almost obsolete, the median one represented by segments of a few millimetres on the nose and nape and an ill-defined line on the posterior back ending level with the hips; the outer lines only about an inch in length, ill-defined and scarcely perceptible. Under surface soiled greyish, the ends of the hairs drabby white. Cheeks, like crown, rich rufous; chin pale rufous. Hands brown. Feet with the outer side of the metatarsus brown, inner dull whitish; digits naked. Tail brown above, lighter below.

Skull not so flattened as in *iheringi*, more of the general shape of that of *americana*, the brain-case comparatively high and rounded.

Dimensions of the type (measured on a spirit-specimen):—

Head and body 80 mm.; tail 36; hind foot 14; ear 10.

Skull: greatest length 25·2; condylo-basal length 25; zygomatic breadth 13·5; nasals $10 \times 3\cdot8$; interorbital breadth 5·4; palatal length 14·5; maxillary tooth-row 10·7; three anterior molariform teeth 4·6.

Hab. Theresopolis, Organ Mts., Brazil.

Type. Adult female. B.M. no. 21. 8. 6. 2. Received in exchange from Prof. J. P. Hill.

This pretty little species is readily distinguishable from *M. iheringi* by its rufous head and rump, its greyish fore-back, and its obsolescent dark dorsal lines.

XLV.—A new Cotton-tail (*Sylvilagus*) from Colombia.

By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

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THE British Museum owes to Frère Nicéforo Maria of Medellin an example of a fine *Sylvilagus* which seems to be different from any described species. It may be called

Sylvilagus nicefori, sp. n.

A member of the short-eared group, the tail almost obsolete.

Fur fairly soft, hairs of back about 23–25 mm. in length.

General colour dark, mixed buffy and blackish, the buffy comparatively pale, not strong and ochraceous. Sides paler buffy. Under surface dull whitish anteriorly, dull buffy posteriorly, the hairs slaty at base. Forehead and nape buffy ochraceous, the nape-patch extending beyond the ends of the short ears. Proectote blackish, slightly suffused with